PRIME FARMLAND
Grand Forks County, North Dakota

Prime farmland is one of several kinds of important farmland defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is of major importance in meeting the Nation’s short– and long–range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high–quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation’s prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built–up land or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. It is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A recent trend in land use in some parts of the survey area has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

The map units in the survey area that are considered prime farmland are listed in the following table. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use. On some soils included in the list, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures. The extent of each listed map unit is shown in the "Acres and Proportionate Extent of Soils" table. The location is shown on the detailed soil maps. The soil qualities that affect use and management are described in other tables in this document."

PRIME FARMLAND--Continued
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Map symbol	Mapunit name	Farmland Classification
12	Svea loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
13B	Barnes loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
17	Vang loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
19	Hamerly loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
25	Overly silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
26	Bearden-overly silty clay loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
29	Velva sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
30	Walsh loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
42	Nutley silty clay	All areas are prime farmland
43B	Cashel silty clay loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
45	Wahpeton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
46	Ladelle silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
48	Wyndmere sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
54B	Embden fine sandy loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
60	Grimstad fine sandy loam	All areas are prime farmland
64	Antler silt loam	All areas are prime farmland
67	Gilby loam	All areas are prime farmland
72	Gardena silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
73	Glyndon silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
78B	Zell-gardena silt loams, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
79B	Zell-ladelle silt loams, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
84	Wyndmere-embden sandy loams	All areas are prime farmland
86	Divide loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
93	Inkster sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
126	Bearden silty clay loam	All areas are prime farmland
130B	Svea-buse loams, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
3	Vallers loam	Prime farmland if drained
4	Arveson loam	Prime farmland if drained
8	Colvin silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
10	Lamoure silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
11	Dovray clay	Prime farmland if drained
41	Bearden-perella silty clays	Prime farmland if drained
55	Tiffany loam	Prime farmland if drained
62	Rockwell fine sandy loam	Prime farmland if drained
71	Hamerly-tonka complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
76	Borup silt loam	Prime farmland if drained
87	Marysland loam	Prime farmland if drained
148	Wyndmere-tiffany fine sandy loams	Prime farmland if drained
171	Antler-tonka silt loams	Prime farmland if drained
173	Glyndon-tiffany silt loams	Prime farmland if drained
226	Bearden-perella silty clay loams	Prime farmland if drained